Future AA technologies post COVID19

NAATW Virtual Gathering 2020

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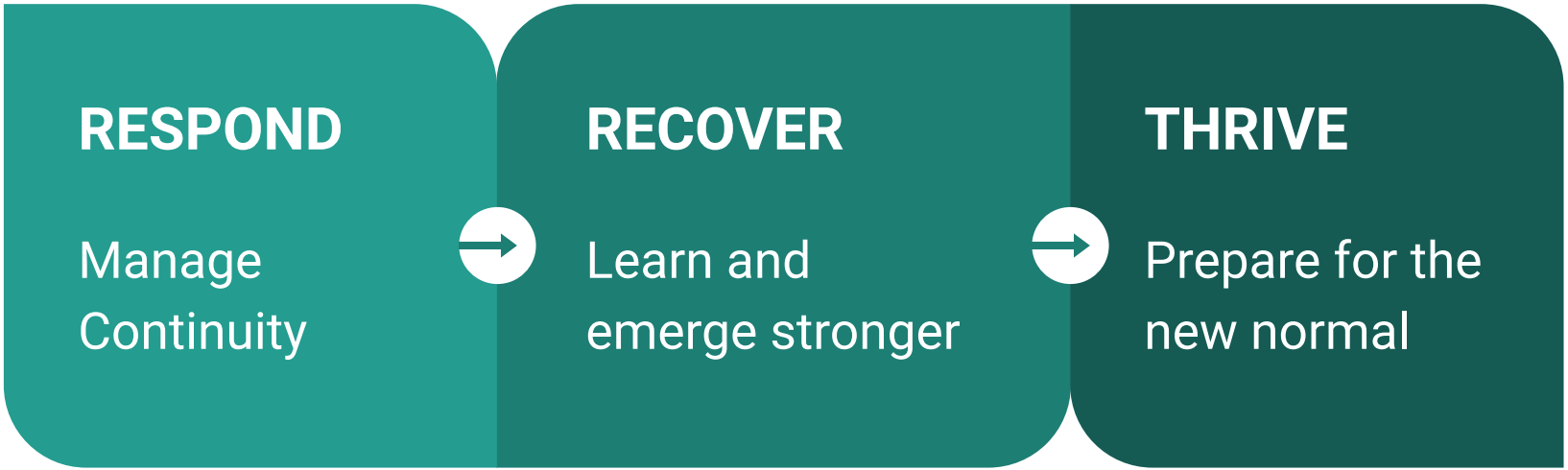
The future will not be like the past

Typical Crisis Timeline



Build Back Better

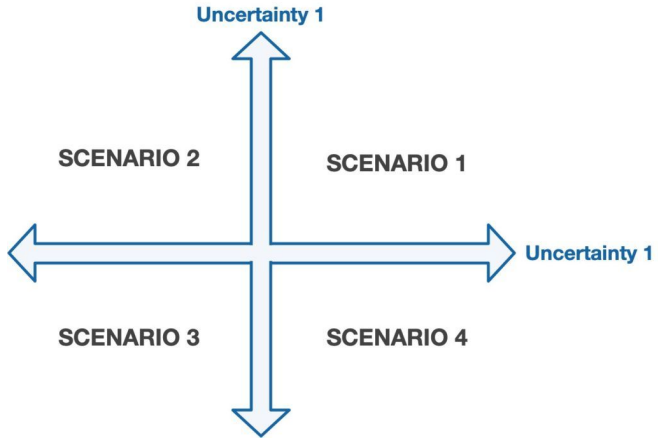
We can embrace some changes and use this opportunity to fix things that have been broken

"We can surf the waves of change, rather than being swept away by them" Tim O'Reilly

Scenario Planning

A business activity for planning for the future in an uncertain world

- Scenario planning takes for granted that it is hard for human beings to imagine the future as being radically different from the present.
- As a result, its practitioners don't try to predict what will happen, but to stretch the mind to think about what might happen.



How might AA change post Covid-19?

How might AA's use of technologies evolve to support that?

Asking Good Questions

What are AA's critical uncertainties?

1. Effects on traditional ways of carrying the message
2. Economic impacts on different AA entities
3. Effects of new channels of communication and information
4. Effects of cross-pollination on AA culture/structure

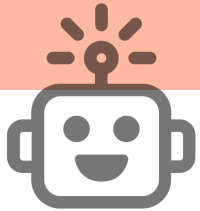
Uncertainty #1:

Effects on traditional ways of carrying the message

- What is the newcomer's journey like moving forward?
- Can we maintain the greater access experienced by people with accessibility needs?
- Will online groups and "hybrid" meetings be integrated into AA?
- Will we start expanding or changing the way we do institutional work?

What technologies might we need?

Better online meeting platforms?
Digital outreach?
Closed-captioning?
Institution-compliant tech?
New types of meeting hardware?



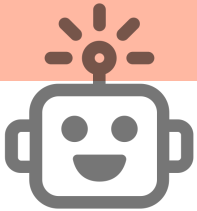
Uncertainty #2:

Economic impacts on different levels of service entities

- Will some entities collapse or grow due to new digital contribution methods?
- Will we adopt new ways of supporting services or more affordable ways of doing things?
- Will we change how we use our contributions?

What technologies might we need?

Digital contribution options?
Shared service/cost models?
Software as a service?
Crowdfunding?
AA-informed technical service vendors?



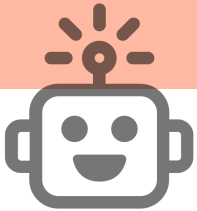
Uncertainty #3:

Effects of new channels of communication and information

- Will we keep or expand the use of more immediate forms of communication?
- Should we maintain or operationalize some of the things we've used to share information during the pandemic?
- What happens to our existing information channels as a result of new channels?
- What does communication at scale look like for AA?

What technologies might we need?

Texting services?
Mailing list tools?
Innovation platforms?
Knowledge management tools?
Event aggregation?



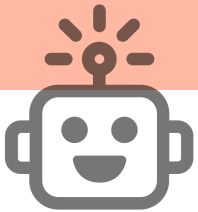
Uncertainty #4:

Effects of cross-pollination on AA culture/structure

- Will remote service meetings and workshops become the norm?
- How will natively online groups fit into the service structure?
- Will we start serving not where we live but where we are needed?
- Do we need a more truly international service structure?

What technologies might we need?

Translation/transcription?
Timezone modifications?
Streaming/hosting services?
Voting technologies?
De-identified audio and video?



Developing a Robust Strategy

“The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence itself, but to act with yesterday’s logic.”
Peter Drucker

“Vision is, I think, the ability to make good estimates, both for the immediate and for the more distant future.”
Bill W.

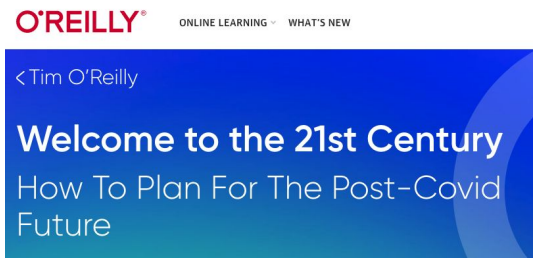
Do the next right thing

- Ask for help!
- Pay attention to “news from the future”
- Research, experiment, guide, advise
- Ground ourselves in the traditions and concepts

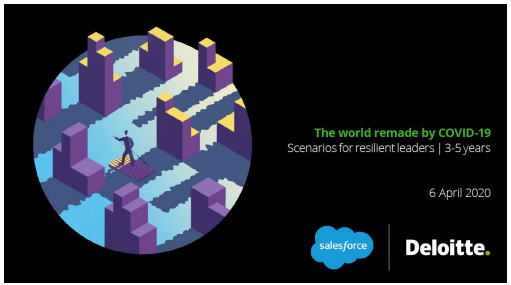
Don’t Forget Foundational Questions:

- Is the spirit of AA continuing through all of these changes?
- Is our unity being preserved, challenged, improved?
- Are we more connected, less connected?
- Is the essence of what AA is and how AA works surviving?
- Are we staying sober and carrying the message to sufferers?

Resources: Take What You Like and Leave the Rest



https://www.oreilly.com/tim/21stcentury/



https://www2.deloitte.com/global/en/pages/about-deloitte/articles/covid-19/covid-19-scenarios-and-impacts-for-business-and-society-world-remade.html

About AA
Summer 2020

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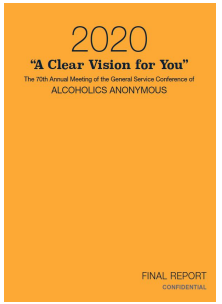

2020 GSC Report

WIRED

https://www.wired.com/1995/11/how-to-build-scenarios/

OnBeing Transcript - interview with Kevin Kelly
https://onbeing.org/programs/kevin-kelly-the-universe-is-a-question-jan2018/#transcript

Technology in AA

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